RESILIENT

Monday, May 17, 2021

Annual State Convention

The Arc Maryland
Congratulations to Our 2021 Graduates of MCE Leadership: The Arc

The Arc Baltimore
Kathleen Kramer
Kimberly McGuire
Sandra Shifflett

The Arc Carroll County
O’Ryan Case
Marcia German

The Arc Central Chesapeake Region
Kendall Concini
Karen Cratty
Niki Jones
Deena Kilmon
Valencia Morrison
Lakisha Wilson

The Arc Howard County
Jeffrey Hawks
Phelisa Huff
Robert Kress

The Arc Maryland
Arylon Brooks

The Arc Montgomery County
Raphaelia Johnson
John Shatto

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region
Corrin Beach
Crystal DeJesus
Kristen Schnell

The Arc Prince George’s County
Kasey DeMent
Keishia Fells
Dante Martin
Ryan Ramnarine
Jennifer Rudolph

The Arc Southern Maryland
Megan Herren
Brenda Taylor

The Arc Washington County
Bethany Ford
Jennifer Miller

The Maryland Conference of Executives - The Arc is proud to sponsor the Plenary Speaker and Disability Champion Judy Heumann at the 2021 State Convention.

The Maryland Conference of Executives - The Arc:
Kathleen Durkin | The Arc Baltimore
Don Rowe | The Arc Carroll County
Jonathon Rondeau | The Arc Central Chesapeake Region
Joanna Pierson | The Arc of Frederick County
Cindy Parr | The Arc Howard County
Ande Kolp | The Arc Maryland
Daria Cervantes | The Arc Montgomery County
Shawn Kros | The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region
Rob Malone | The Arc Prince George’s County
Terry Long | The Arc Southern Maryland
Troy Van Scoyoc | The Arc Washington County

Find Out More About your local chapter of The Arc: Scan Me!
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Welcome
Thank you for
Enjoy the day, and thank you for coming!

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“Advancing the rights and interests of people with disabilities”
We don’t see a child with disabilities.
We see Emma.

Treating, educating and supporting children and young adults with neurological conditions and disabilities are our passions. Our renowned specialists provide interdisciplinary and individualized care and education for families from Maryland and around the world. We see each individual as the unique person they are and help them thrive.

Through our Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities, one of a national network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service, we provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities, and we link the community to vital services, research and information to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Visit KennedyKrieger.org/MCDD for more information on Kennedy Krieger programs and to learn about ways to support our mission.

Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities
at Kennedy Krieger Institute
Welcome

Thank you for joining us at The Arc Maryland 2021 State Convention! We are excited to bring advocates from across the state together as we work together to create a world where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities have and enjoy equal rights and opportunities. Our call to action and the guiding light of our work this year has been driven by the creativity and strength of YOU. Through everything we have encountered over the past year, we have proven Resilient! We don’t and won’t ever stop working for what is right. Sometimes the path to our goals takes unexpected turns, but the ultimate direction in which we are going is solid, and we will continue to lead on.

The word Resilient, which first made its themed appearance this year in The Arc’s 2021 Maryland Legislative Calendar, proved fitting for who we are. There are 18,000 people with I/DD in Maryland who receive Developmental Disabilities Administration services, a third of whom are supported by the ten local chapter organizations of The Arc. Several thousand more people with IDD and their families receive information and other services through our network, created and designed seven decades ago by parents.

Together, we represent a united and strong network. Between last year and this year, we have made significant adjustments to our daily lives. We have forged new friendships and have lost loved ones to a pandemic that we could not have imagined. As the sun begins to rise on a new day, we look to the future with a renewed faith in knowing we are strong and will get where we want to be,… together.

With so much ahead in the path of our future, we hope you will take this day to discover the resources, practices, and innovations from across Maryland that have helped us to be TRULY Resilient.

Enjoy the day, and thank you for being here!

Ray Marshall, Esquire
President of the Board of Directors

Ande Kolp
Executive Director
8:30 AM
ONLINE ROOM OPENS FOR NETWORKING

9:00 AM—10:00 AM
PLENARY SESSION WITH JUDY HEUMANN

10:00 AM—10:50 AM
BREAKOUT SESSION I
• The Future of Remote Community Connections
• Leaders of Tomorrow: Advocates of the Future
• Legislative Wrap Up and Plans for Year-Round Advocacy

10:50 AM—11:00 AM
BREAK

11:00 AM—12:00 PM
BREAKOUT SESSION II
• Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion: Everyone Has a Role
• Sharing Your Story in a Changing World

12:00 PM—1:00 PM
LUNCH BREAK, NETWORKING

1:00 PM—1:50 PM
BREAKOUT SESSION III
• Adaptive Technology for Independence
• Supported Decision Making
• SpArc Tank: Igniting Innovations for Change

1:50 PM—2:00 PM
CONVENTION WRAP-UP
Judith “Judy” Heumann is a lifelong advocate and internationally recognized leader in the fight for the rights of people with disabilities. Her memoir, authored with Kristen Joiner, “Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist,” is not only her story, as she puts it, but the story of all who came together to gain protections for the rights of people with disabilities, sparking a national movement, and leading to the creation and passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For everyone who cares about human rights and equity, Judy’s story is an important one to hear and to know that we are not done in our work to make a world where we all belong.

Judith E. Heumann, International Disability Rights Activist

Judy Heumann’s advocacy journey began in Brooklyn, New York, in 1949, when she contracted polio and began to use a wheelchair for her mobility. At age five, Judy was denied the right to attend school because she was considered a “fire hazard.” Her parents played a strong role in fighting for her rights as a child, but Judy soon determined that her voice, and the voices of others were going to make the difference.

Now, Judy is an internationally recognized leader in the disability rights community. She has published a memoir and has been featured in documentaries about the disability rights movement, most recently in the award-winning Netflix documentary, “Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution.” Judy has also shared her insights through her 2016 TED talk, “Our Fight for Disability Rights - and Why We’re Not Done Yet,” and in writing “Road Map for Inclusion: Changing the Face of Disability in Media” as a Senior Fellow at the Ford Foundation (2017-2019).

Ms. Heumann was a founding member of the Center for Independent Living at Berkley, the first grassroots center in the country, where she helped launch the Independent Living Movement nationally and globally. In 1983, she also co-founded the World Institute on Disability (WID), one of the first global disability rights organizations founded and continually led by people with disabilities.

From 1993 to 2001, she served under the Clinton Administration as the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the Department of Education. Then in 2010, Judy was appointed...
by President Obama as the first Special Advisor for International Disability Rights at the U.S. Department of State, for her instrumental work in the development and implementation of legislation, such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Judy also served as the World Bank’s first Adviser on Disability and Development from 2002 to 2006, leading the World Bank’s disability work to expand its knowledge and capability to work with governments and civil society on including disability in the global conversation. Currently, Judy serves on several non-profit boards, including the American Association of People with Disabilities, the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, Humanity and Inclusion, and the Human Rights Watch.

Judy graduated from Long Island University in 1969 and received her Master’s in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley in 1975. Included in her extensive repertoire of awards are the first recipient of the Henry B. Betts Award, in recognition of efforts to significantly improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, and the Max Starkloff Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Council on Independent Living.
In Memory of Ernestine “Billie” Scott

American Door Company is proud to support The Arc Maryland Convention through our Plenary Sponsorship in memoriam of Ms. Ernestine “Billie” Scott.

Ms. Scott was a concerned and generous citizen, known throughout her distinguished life and career to hire employees with disabilities to work for American Door Company, many of whom have continued to be valued employees of the company for their entire careers. Billie passed away on August 2, 2020, due to COVID, but her legacy will live on.
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SESSION DESCRIPTION

While the pandemic has caused many hardships for Marylanders, it has also created an opportunity and an environment for providers to turn to technology and to develop and implement remote supports to meet the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)! As vaccine immunizations pick up and providers chart re-opening plans, many of these remote service discoveries can be used going forward to supplement in-person supports while maintaining and even improving the quality of life for many.

This panel of provider community leaders offers insight into the developments they have found to be effective. Learn about how they have pivoted their models of support to embrace hybrid or fully remote supports that people they support (and their families) desire as they look to the future. The panelists will also address the hurdles they met along the way and offer creative solutions they employed to help them overcome challenges in their quest to support people to live their best lives.

PRESENTERS:

Swanisha Hinton, Assistant Director of Personal Supports, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region

Swanisha Hinton is a dedicated and knowledgeable professional who challenges and empowers families and people with differing abilities to thrive and live a life without limitation. She has worked as the Assistant Director of Personal Supports/ISS for The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region for the past year. During the pandemic, Swanisha pivoted and continued providing supports through the development of Virtual Supports. She previously worked for The Arc Baltimore for seven years in the Outreach & Family Services Division. Swanisha started her career over 13 years ago as a Direct Support Professional for an Autism Waiver Provider in Prince George’s County. She also has experience as a Center Manager, Employment Specialist, Family Living Support Coordinator, Outreach Coordinator, and Personal Supports Supervisor. Swanisha believes in lifetime learning and continuous improvement. She is a graduate of The Arc Baltimore Leadership Institute, MCE Leadership, and has a certificate in Advanced Professional Development for Assistive Technology Applications.

Aaron Stephens, Special Projects Director, The Arc of Frederick County

Aaron Stephens serves as the Special Projects Director with The Arc of Frederick County. He has worked with The Arc for more than 20 years. Aaron enjoys using creative habits to create enviable lives for people with developmental disabilities. Aaron has worked to support an author with autism to publish books, established inclusive college opportunities, and directs the day-to-day operation of
The Arc of Frederick County’s Employment Supports. Aaron has worked with wonderful co-workers who have opened a coffee shop, large event space, and culinary training program to bring the community together at The Arc at Market Street. Aaron’s recent accomplishments include supporting The Arc of Frederick County to establish a robust offering of Remote Supports so that people with developmental disabilities have equal access in all communities.

Abby Taylor, Customized Employment and Training Mentor, SEEC
Abby Taylor has worked at SEEC for seven years. She began as an Employment Consultant, where she became passionate about employment for all. Abby now works as a staff trainer and mentor on Customized Employment concepts. During the pandemic, she developed curricula, classes, and virtual activities in which people supported by SEEC participate.

Thank you to Wegmans for providing an in-kind donation of snacks for 2021 Convention Attendees!

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People On the Go Maryland effects positive change in the lives of its members and the greater disability community through its grassroots efforts and a cross-disability strategy.

Contact Info@POGMD.org for more information or to get involved.
Breakout Session 1: 10:00 AM to 10:50 AM

Leaders of Tomorrow: Advocates of the Future

SESSION DESCRIPTION

While we aim to build a better future for our youth, emerging young leaders have taken their futures into their own hands! Each year, more advocates are inspired to create a better world for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During this panel, we highlight some advocates and the work they have done to achieve their vision. Discover what inspires them, how they began their advocacy work, and their plans going forward as they work to create a world where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities have and enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

PRESENTERS:

Rob Stone, Advocate

Rob Stone is a 2018 Walt Whitman High School graduate. After leaving high school, Rob wanted to be a health care and disability rights advocate, so he began advocating with Little Lobbyists in 2019. Rob has been part of Capitol Hill press conferences and met with U.S. Senate and House congresspersons and staff. He also works with the Self-Directed Advocacy Network and other groups on state issues and has testified before the Maryland General Assembly. Rob is a 2020 graduate of The Arc’s Partners in Policymaking® program. He also takes classes at Montgomery College. In his free time, Rob enjoys writing poetry, composing music, and making art. He lives in Bethesda, Maryland, with his mom and dad, his brother Castin, his dog, and two cats.

Justin Valenti, Advocate

Justin Valenti is an advocate who is currently an Office Automation Clerk at the National Institute of Mental Health. Justin has spoken with the Maryland General Assembly and the U.S. Congress on the inclusion of students with disabilities. In addition to being a 2019 graduate of The Arc’s Partners in Policymaking® program, Justin is an active member of STAND Together and People On The Go of Maryland, where he weighs in on advocacy issues to promote equal rights and opportunities for people with disabilities.

Outside of his advocacy work, Justin is quite the renaissance man! He has worked with the VisAbility Art Lab at VisArts, published two books, and Justin’s band, Neurodiversity, performs at disability-related events. Justin likes photography, digital art, animation, and graphic design. He also has a pug named Tom.
Laura LeBrun Hatcher is mom to Simon, age 15. Simon has a great sense of humor and loves playing the drums. He also has complex medical needs and disabilities. Like most parents, Laura has advocated for Simon since he was born. In recent years, Laura has advocated with Simon, his dad Brian, and sister Olivia as a founding family of the Little Lobbyists. She is a member of the Little Lobbyists leadership team and is primarily responsible for design and communication. She meets with legislators and families to facilitate communication and discuss the impact of legislation.

Laura has testified in the U.S. Congress and Maryland State Senate, has led advocacy workshops, and given speeches at rallies and press conferences. Laura has been interviewed by the Washington Post, New York Times, Vox, Stat News, Politico, New York Magazine, and Univision. Laura is also a 2019 graduate of the Maryland Partners in Policymaking® program. When not advocating, Laura is a design educator at Towson University and an award-winning creative consultant through her design firm, Hatcher Design Office, LLC, where she specializes in human-centered design for non-profit organizations.
The Arc
Prince George’s County
A Caring Community

Recognizes our
AWESOME
Executive Director

BOB MALONE

We thank you for all you do!

www.thearcofpgc.org
Expectations are what we think people can do. If we have high expectations of people, we are more likely to support them to try new things, take risks, and learn and grow. When we have high expectations that people with and without disabilities can live, learn, work, and play together, it is more likely to happen. That's why expectations matter.

The Council developed resources to help people have high expectations of people with developmental disabilities. They can be found at md-council.org/resources.

Use #ExpectationsMatter and #ExpectAbility to help us spread the message.

SDAN wishes The Arc Maryland great success with their Annual State Convention. You have demonstrated tremendous resilience during this difficult year. We wish to thank you for your advocacy efforts on behalf of our members.

This year, SDAN:
• Produced the “Self Direction and the Good Life: Many Lives, Many Choices” video with the help of a SpArc Tank grant from The Arc Maryland.
• Worked with Delegate Lewis Young and Senator Lee on legislation to protect choice and control for SDS participants.
• Saw SDAN membership grow to over 600 people.
• Represented our membership in ongoing problem-solving meetings with DDA.

Anyone can self-direct! Visit marylandsds.org or like our Facebook page Self-Directed Advocacy Network of Maryland, Inc., Disability Advocates or email info@marylandsds.org.
RESILIENT

SESSION DESCRIPTION
Join Legislative experts in a panel discussion on the Maryland state budget for developmental disabilities services and hear about the successes and disappointments of this past legislative session. The panel will also provide insight into what we might expect next January.

While the legislative session is a key time of year to further the rights and improve the community for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), there is also plenty of work to be done outside of it! Participants can learn about what steps can be taken during the other 275 days of the year to advance mission, achieve equity, and strive for “Community for All!”.

SESSION SPONSOR:
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

BREAKOUT SESSION 1: 10:00 TO 10:50 AM
Legislative Wrap Up and Plans for Year-Round Advocacy

PRESENTERS:

Ken Capone, Public Policy Director, People On the Go of Maryland

Ken Capone is a recognized leader in Maryland’s self-advocacy movement. He is the Public Policy Director for People on the Go of Maryland and former Board President for Disability Rights Maryland. Mr. Capone spent two terms on the United States President’s Committee for individuals with intellectual disabilities. He is well versed in community living and the importance of directing your own services. He studied Computer Programming at Johns Hopkins University, completed the Partners in Policymaking® program, and served as a Legislative Intern with the Maryland Senate.

Lauren Kallins, Director of Government Relations, Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS)

Lauren Kallins has been the Director of Government Relations at the Maryland Association of Community Services since 2016 but has been a lobbyist in the nonprofit sector for the last 25 years. During the legislative session, she is in Annapolis most days advocating on issues of importance to the IDD provider community and the people they support, including the DDA budget and a variety of bills in other areas. Before joining MACS, Lauren spent 16 years at the Maryland Disability Law Center, now Disability Rights Maryland, as an attorney in their Special Education unit and as a lobbyist on cross-disability issues. Before DRM, she lobbied on behalf of the Baltimore Jewish Council. Lauren is a lifelong resident of Maryland, a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. She is married, has three mostly grown daughters, and lives in Baltimore County.
Mat Rice, Director of Public Policy, The Arc Maryland

Mat Rice has over a decade of experience working for disability advocacy organizations, including Shared Support Maryland and People On the Go of Maryland. He is a 2007 graduate of the Maryland School for the Blind and Parkville High School. Mat is now a staple in Annapolis, focusing his efforts on state legislation and public policy affecting the lives of Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He is the current chair of the Developmental Disabilities Administration’s Quality Advisory Council, a board member of Maryland Works Inc., and a former board member of the Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS). Outside of his lifelong self-advocacy, Mat enjoys public speaking, science-fiction, and various other pursuits.

Megan Rusciano, Esq., Co-Managing Attorney, Disability Rights Maryland

Megan Rusciano (she/her) is a Co-Managing Attorney of the Developmental Disabilities, Health Care, and Victims of Crime Act Team at Disability Rights Maryland (DRM), Maryland’s federally-designated Protection & Advocacy Agency for people with disabilities. Megan assists clients with accessing home and community based Medicaid services; reasonable accommodations; and alternatives to guardianship, including supported decision-making. Megan chairs Maryland’s Cross-Disability Supported Decision-Making Coalition, is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association’s Elder & Disability Law Section Council and the Maryland Judiciary’s Guardianship and Vulnerable Adult Workgroup, and serves as faculty for Guardianship Attorney Training.

Keith Walmsley, Director of Public Policy Initiatives, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Keith Walmsley is part of the Council’s public policy team, with the executive director, and advocates for improvements in policies, services, programs, laws, and regulations. His focus areas include family support issues, employment, and diversity outreach. Before joining the Council, Keith worked nearly 15 years at the House of Delegates, where he held roles in operations. Most recently, Keith served as the Chief of Staff to the Ways & Means committee. He has expertise in varied policy areas, including revenues, election law, economic development, and education policy. Keith wrote over 100 bills that are now law and worked on hundreds of other pieces of legislation. Outside of the office, Keith enjoys hiking, baking, and keeping up with all things political in his native England. Keith is a graduate of Towson University.
Making Savings Attainable for People with Disabilities
Maryland ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) accounts are a way for people with disabilities to save money without jeopardizing federal, state, or local means-tested benefits.

ABLE-eligible individuals may want to consider saving all or a portion of their Economic Stimulus payment in an ABLE account. The first $100,000 in an ABLE account do not count as a resource for benefit programs such as Medicaid and SSI.

**ABLE Account Benefits**
- Contributing up to $15,000* per year.
- Tax-deferred growth and tax-free withdrawals for qualified disability expenses.
- Maryland State income deduction up to $2,500 per contributor per beneficiary for Maryland taxpayers who contribute to a Maryland ABLE account.
- Saving up to $100,000 in an ABLE account before impacting SSI cash benefits.
- Contributing up to a maximum account value of $500,000.

* Beneficiaries who work may qualify for additional contributions. See the website and Program Disclosure for more details on this benefit.

**Additional ABLE Account Features**
- Rollovers from 529 college savings plan
- Online gifting
- Prepaid Card

**Examples of Qualified Disability Expenses**
- **Basic Living Expenses**
  - Gas, electric, water
- **Health and Wellness**
  - Medical bills, medication, medical equipment
- **Housing**
  - Mortgage, property taxes, rent
- **Education and Training**
  - Textbooks, tuition, trade schools
- **Employment**
  - Work related expenses, certification fees, job coaching
- **Assistive Technology**
  - Hearing aids, computers, screen readers, iDevices
- **Transportation**
  - Bus, metro, taxi, Lyft, Uber, train
- **Financial Management and Legal Fees**
  - Tax prep, legal and court fees, financial advisor services
- **Burial Fees and Expenses**
  - Pre-planning fees, funeral and burial expenses

**Contact Us**
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Please carefully read the Maryland ABLE Program Disclosure and Participation Agreement, which describes the investment objectives, risks, expenses, and other important information that you should consider before you invest in the Maryland ABLE program. If the beneficiary lives outside of Maryland, you should consider before investing whether the beneficiary’s state offers state tax or other benefits for investing in its ABLE plan.
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SESSION DESCRIPTION

This session will offer participants a framework for engagement and the creation of environments that are welcoming to all. Participants will discuss diversity, equity, and inclusion, using four keywords; Acknowledgment, Authenticity, Accountability, and Action. Sara will share examples of challenges and successes with launching or advancing DEI in your organization. Participants will have a chance to identify steps and different roles in creating and supporting a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment.

PRESENTERS:

Sara Taylor, M.A., President and CEO, Positive Steps Consulting

Sara Taylor’s career includes several years of experience in non-profit services ranging from direct care front-line social worker to a senior-level executive administrator. In addition to administrative roles, Sara has served as a trainer and curriculum designer. She is currently engaged with regional non-profits as a Community Liaison and Training Specialist focused on social justice issues and professional development training. Sara is nationally known for her ability to “convene and influence groups” to strategically advance organizational goals related to DEI and improve Career Pathways for Women of Color.

Sara’s influence and credibility are seen in her work as a community and national leader, working with policymakers, philanthropists, and other stakeholders who are collectively dedicated to improving outcomes for diverse populations. Sara obtained her M.A. in Human Service Administration from St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, and has received various certificates in leadership development and conference planning. She also serves on numerous advisory boards and steering committees at local, state, and national levels. In 2019 Sara was recognized as an Athena finalist and received the Gloria Avia Ward award during the City of Rochester Black Heritage Gala. Sara believes that professional, personal, and spiritual development is a lifelong process.
If you have a child or other family member with a mental or physical disability, it is imperative to have a plan in place to support them now and long after you are gone.

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SESSION DESCRIPTION

We live in a fast-paced country where things are always changing! As advocates, we have to constantly adapt the way in which we advocate: sharing our stories and devising new ways to ensure that our voices are heard in the crowd. There are resources at our fingertips to help make this happen!

In this breakout, learn from people who have found effective ways to advance their advocacy in exciting ways! Whether you have a knack for writing, public speaking, or making videos, there is an avenue for you to succeed.

SESSION SPONSOR:

BREAKOUT SESSION 2: 11:00 TO 12:00

Breakout Session 2: 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Sharing Your Story in a Changing World

PRESENTERS:

Angie Auldridge, M.S., Parent, Writer, & Podcaster, Embracing Holland Podcast

Angie works for the Parents’ Place of Maryland as the Western Maryland Parent Educator and Content Coordinator. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Hood College and a Master of Science in Clinical Community Counseling from Johns Hopkins University. Previously, Angie worked in higher education, where she supported students with disabilities and worked with those in crisis.

She serves on several committees, including the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council and the Washington County Disability Advisory Committee. She is a graduate of the Maryland Partners in Policymaking® program and Leadership Washington County. A believer in the power of storytelling, she co-hosts a podcast titled “Embracing Holland,” which serves to empower, encourage, and inspire families living with disabilities. She also writes a blog titled “Mighty and the Bean,” about her family’s journey with autism and rare disease. She lives in Washington County with her husband and three children.

Dr. Carol Baltazar, Parent Advocate and Podcaster, The Autism Mom MD Podcast

Dr. Carol Baltazar is a wife and mom of three kids. Her oldest son, who has Autism Spectrum Disorder, has been a driving passion in her advocacy journey. Carol created The Autism Mom MD Podcast, a platform for engaging conversations to help pave the way for empowerment, growth, and inclusion of individuals with autism to live out their best possible life.

The Autism Mom MD Podcast has included a variety of subject matter experts, including individuals with autism, parents, and
caregivers. Carol is a graduate of Maryland’s Partners in Policymaking® program, an appointed member of the Maryland Behavioral Analyst and Advisory Committee, and a member of the Howard County Autism Society. Outside of her advocacy, Dr. Baltazar is an Internal Medicine physician, the co-founder and medical director of Longevity Medical Spa, and the co-founder and inventor of TheraPearl®. The Autism Mom MD Podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, and Buzzsprout.

**Meeka Caldwell, Parent Advocate and Author**

Wife, mother, advocate, and author are just a few of the titles that describe Meeka Caldwell. But becoming an advocate isn’t usually something that people set out to do: It is driven by a deep passion and desire for change. As a mother of a boy with Down syndrome, Meeka noticed a silence around the needs of Black and Brown people within the disability community. What started as speaking up for her child has evolved into becoming an advocate for the entire community. She recognized a need for more literature embracing and highlighting the diverse stories of children and families within the Down syndrome community. That’s where the children’s book A Friend Like Anian was born. With her son Anian as the main character, the book shows how positive community interaction during a day out with his mom fosters a greater understanding of people with disabilities. Meeka’s second book, A Friend Like Anian: The First Day of School, was released in 2021. She is also an active presence in both local and national Down syndrome organizations. Meeka lives in Upper Marlboro with her husband, and they have six children.

**Jalyn Marks, Graduate Research Assistant, Georgetown University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities**

Jalyn Marks is a disability rights advocate who uses plain language and the stories of people with lived experience to highlight access needs and resources for people with disabilities and their families. Jalyn is currently a student at Georgetown University, pursuing her Master’s in Communications, Culture & Technology, and a certificate in Disability Studies. Jalyn also works for the Georgetown University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, focusing on communications and accessibility.
CONGRATULATIONS
to all The Arc Community for your continued Resilience and to the MCE Leadership Class members of 2021 for the growth they’ve experienced over their program year and the many transformations to come in their future leadership journey!

UMBC Training Centers, Center for Leadership and Innovation has been proud to support The Arc Maryland and the Maryland Conference of Executives Leadership Class of 2021 journey!

The Center for Leadership and Innovation provides businesses with:

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- Professional Coaching
- & Other Professional Development

For more information contact DiAndra Polk at drocke@umbctraining.com
Or visit our site at umbctraining.com
Developmental Disabilities Administration

**DDA Vision:**
People with developmental disabilities will have full lives in the communities of their choice where they are included, participate, and are active citizens.

**DDA Mission:**
Create a flexible, person-centered, family-oriented system of supports so people can have full lives.

**Our Administration:**
Provides a coordinated service delivery system for people with developmental disabilities. Partners with people with developmental disabilities and their families to provide leadership and resources to enable these individuals in living fulfilling lives and is guided by the principle that individuals with developmental disabilities have the right to direct their lives and services. To learn more about the DDA, visit: [https://dda.health.maryland.gov](https://dda.health.maryland.gov) to learn more about More about the Vision and Goals of DDA.

The direction of DDA's service delivery system is transforming to better meet the needs of people receiving services.

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With the constant innovations made in technology, there are amazing products and services out there that can be handy to increase connectedness and communication to improve the lives of Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)! The Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MDTAP) is joining us for this session to guide us through what is available across the state in the realm of assistive technology. Assistive Technology encompasses a wide variety of items and techniques, from low-tech, such as a cane or adaptive spoon, to high-tech software operated through eye gaze. Whatever your need, assistive technology options should be investigated!

MDTAP offers four assistive technology (AT) libraries across the state, AT demonstrations, AT consultations, short-term device loans, a high-tech AT Reuse Center (to access gently used equipment for free), trainings, webinars, and a low-interest financial loan program. They also provide one-on-one information & referral to help consumers find the exact AT services needed.

**PRESENTERS:**

**Lori Markland**, Executive Director, Assistive Technology Program, Maryland Department of Disabilities

Over multiple decades, Lori has held multiple positions within the assistive technology program, most recently serving as the Director of Access Maryland, a statewide program focused on ensuring architectural access and ADA compliance within state facilities and universities. Previously, she served as their Communications and Program Development Director. With extensive experience in the disability field, Lori has a breadth of experience related to assistive technology, disability services, and accessible information technology. She holds a BA and MFA from the University of Baltimore. Lori is a long-time Baltimore resident, mother of three children (one of whom has a non-verbal learning disability), and spends most of her free time with her family.

**James A. Whitney, OTD**, Assistive Technology Clinician, Assistive Technology Program, Maryland Department of Disabilities

James provides customized AT demonstrations and short-term device loans, and hosts AT training and public awareness sessions to a range of consumers across the state. James was born and raised in Salisbury, Maryland where he completed his bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in sociology. James worked as a pediatric counselor (under the guidance of an LCSW) before attending Virginia Commonwealth University’s Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program, where he graduated in May of 2020.
Since then, James has immersed himself in the world of assistive technology through his education and volunteering experience at AT reuse centers in Virginia leading up to his employment at the Maryland Assistive Technology Program, where he works as an AT Clinician. James currently resides in Baltimore, Maryland, where the central MDTAP office and AT library are located.

Thank you to Giant Food Inc. for providing an in-kind donation of snacks for 2021 Convention Attendees!
Supported Decision Making (SDM) is a growing movement in the United States that offers people a legally recognized option to make their own decisions with assistance from a person they trust and identify as their supporter. Including SDM in our toolbox of viable alternatives to guardianship, for many, will provide just one more option for people to utilize in living their best lives!

In this session, subject matter experts will introduce and lead a discussion on Supported Decision Making and how it is being employed in several other states. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn ways in which SDM is being advanced in Maryland.

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**PRESENTERS:**

**Ellen A. Callegary, Esq., Partner, The Law Offices of Ellen A. Callegary, P.A.**

Ellen A. Callegary, Esq., has been a practicing attorney for over 40 years and is a founding partner of the Law Offices of Ellen A. Callegary, P.A., focusing on family law, special education, and disability issues. She represents children and adults with disabilities to help them get appropriate services, such as special education and rehabilitation services throughout the state. Ellen also helps families through the guardianship, mental health, and healthcare decision-making processes. She is the Co-Editor of “Guardianship and Its Alternatives: A Handbook on Maryland Law,” a joint publication of The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and the Maryland State Bar Association. Ms. Callegary has a long history of involvement in disability issues in varying capacities, including working for the Maryland Attorney General advising state agencies, teaching as an adjunct professor, and serving on boards.

**Ken Capone, Public Policy Director, People On the Go of Maryland**

Ken Capone is a recognized leader in Maryland’s self-advocacy movement. He is the Public Policy Director for People on the Go of Maryland and former Board President for Disability Rights Maryland. Mr. Capone spent two terms on the United States President’s Committee for individuals with intellectual disabilities. He is well versed in community living and the importance of directing your own services. He studied Computer Programming at Johns Hopkins University, completed the Partners in Policymaking® program, and served as a Legislative Intern with the Maryland Senate.
Megan Rusciano, Esq., Co-Managing Attorney, Disability Rights Maryland

Megan Rusciano (she/her) is a Co-Managing Attorney of the Developmental Disabilities, Health Care, and Victims of Crime Act Team at Disability Rights Maryland (DRM), Maryland’s federally-designated Protection & Advocacy Agency for people with disabilities. Megan assists clients with accessing home and community based Medicaid services; reasonable accommodations; and alternatives to guardianship, including supported decision-making. Megan chairs Maryland’s Cross-Disability Supported Decision-Making Coalition, is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association’s Elder & Disability Law Section Council and the Maryland Judiciary’s Guardianship and Vulnerable Adult Workgroup, and serves as faculty for Guardianship Attorney Training.

Morgan K. Whitlatch, Legal Director, Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities

Morgan K. Whitlatch is the Legal Director of Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities, a non-profit advocacy organization advancing the interests of people with developmental disabilities since 2002. Morgan has devoted her legal career to working with and on behalf of people with disabilities in matters involving capacity, guardianship and alternatives, the right to self-determination, community integration, living life free from abuse and neglect, and accessing public benefits and services. She leads systemic policy, practice, and training initiatives, including those of the National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making and the Jenny Hatch Justice Project. Before joining QT in 2009, Morgan was an attorney at Disability Rights Rhode Island. She has been recognized by Georgetown University, Human Rights Action - Amnesty International, as making outstanding contributions through her work as a human rights practitioner. She is licensed to practice law in Maryland and the District of Columbia.
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What innovative practices are going on in Maryland right now? SpArc Tank is a grant initiative from The Arc Maryland that aims to ignite change through new products, resources, studies, projects, training, or other initiatives to enhance the lives of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In this session, hear from recent grantees about their projects and outcomes, and learn how you too may apply for SpArc funding in the future to advance your creative idea for the benefit of many!

**SESSION DESCRIPTION**

**SpArc Tank**

**PRESENTERS:**

**SEEC:**

*Moving Out - Creating a Path for Independent Living.*

SEEC has developed a series of training sessions to support people with IDD and their families to successfully prepare for the traditional milestone of moving out! A training series model and resource guide are available for providers to execute successful transitions to independent living.

**Self Directed Advocacy Network (SDAN) of Maryland, Inc.:**

*What’s So Great About Self-Direction?*

SDAN’s video on self-direction provides key insights on how people can assume control of their plans and budgets to design their best lives. Several individuals and families discuss how self-direction works for them and how it could work for you, too!

**The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region:**

*Individualized Education Program (IEP) Breakdown: Family Workshops to Understand the Process.*

The IEP process can be confusing, even overwhelming at times, but The Arc NCR is here to help parents! Through a resource booklet, training series, and guidance, parents can be better prepared and empowered to partner with their schools and provide their children the best education possible.

**The Arc Central Chesapeake Region:**

*Coping with COVID-19*

While the pandemic has been a difficult time of adjustment for many people, The Arc CCR’s SpArc Tank initiative aimed to soothe these difficulties. The project assists people with IDD to process the current health crisis and all of the implications it has had in their lives, the lives of their loved ones, and the community.
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These individuals provided a donation to the convention with the purchase of their ticket.  
(*As of April 27, 2021) Thank you for your support of our work and mission!

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